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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated

PEASANT, GUERRILLA RESISTANCE INCREASES;  
NEW REPRESSIVE MEASURES REPORTED

This report gives information on sabotage and resistance in Bulgaria, on arrests, and on repressive measures taken by the Bulgarian government, based on articles in Turkish newspapers during the period 27 July - 5 October 1951. Several place names could not be identified from the Turkish, and probable spellings are suggested for others.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

Sabotage, Resistance Activity

Bulgarian peasants, disliking the idea of their produce being shipped to the USSR, have adopted the slogan "Not one grain of wheat for the Soviets." Every possible maneuver is being used to delay deliveries, while in some areas crops are simply not being harvested. In the town of Kurtovo Konare near Plovdiv, 600 harvest workers refused to work, and labor brigades recruited from other villages were of little help. Finally, 650 Plovdiv industrial workers (both men and women) were sent to Kurtovo Konare and other places to harvest crops. Also, 527 inhabitants of Plovdiv were sent to Stara Zagora by the "Brotherly Aid Organization." Other tactics are also being employed. For example, peasants have been setting three or four fires a day in the Pleven area alone, while 20 mills have been fired in the town of Belen. Systematic sabotage of agricultural machinery and obstruction of repairs are taking place.

In an effort to stop these acts, many reliable agents have been sent to villages to force the peasants to surrender their crops. The government has created an agricultural workers directorate and has placed a control commission in charge of each farm workers' cooperative. These control commissions watch the peasants constantly and have arrested all who seem suspicious. (1) Sabotage activities have also reportedly occurred at the munitions factories in Sliven, Shayak, and Kazanluk, at the Pernik iron mines, the Mira Maridzha /Maritsa?/ coal field, and the Bohofski Manastir /Bukhovo?/ uranium mines. (2)

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Armed resistance has also increased. In Kubrat, the chief of the civil guard was attacked by a group of resistance fighters. In Bezianov [Bezhanovo?] peasants forcibly took back agricultural machinery and equipment seized by the cooperative. A military detachment sent to the scene refused to interfere, and the commander was reportedly arrested for saying that the matter was an affair for the police, not the army. Another clash in this town, which lasted 3 hours, resulted in the death of three policemen and the flight of 150 villagers to the mountains.

Armed clashes have also occurred in the town of Zao [Zavet?], between government forces and resistance members led by Dimidar Atanasu [Dimitr. Atanasok?] who lives in Ostar Forest in the Kubrat area. Clashes have also been reported in the Kyustendil and Ruse areas.

It has been confirmed that Asen Stamboliiski is heading a guerrilla force of 2,000 men which is conducting a feverish anti-Communist campaign among villagers in the Sliven area. The villagers are being urged to form sabotage groups, and to abandon their villages and flee to the mountains at the slightest danger.(1)

#### Political Activities

An Anatolian Agency dispatch, dated 1 August, from Belgrade reported that 200 influential Bulgarian Communist Party members, including Maj Gen Slavcho Trnski, leader of the Bulgarian partisans during the war years, had been arrested.(3) A report from Athens, also dated 1 August, declared that among those arrested were Kunin, Bulganonov, and Kinov. General Lakarski, former army political commissar, and Georgiev, former Minister of Electricity, were also mentioned as having been jailed.(4)

A dispatch from Belgrade, dated 19 August, reported that preparations had begun for wholesale expulsions from the Kula, Vidin, and Belogradchik areas, with the people being warned not to leave their homes and to be ready to "travel" in the near future. In the village of Misalovgrad [Mikhaylovgrad?], the people are confined to their homes as soon as night falls.(5)

According to a report from Edirne, dated 4 October, two young immigrants who had arrived there reported that the young intelligentsia of Bulgaria was in the process of being liquidated in prison camps. According to the two immigrants, a prison has been established on the Danubian island of Belene between Svishtov and Igboiu [Nikopol?]. The two men, who succeeded in escaping from the camp, said that Bulgarians are forbidden to approach the island and that many inmates die daily of contagious diseases, after which the Bulgarians, instead of burying them, throw the bodies into the river. According to these two men, a majority of the Turkish prisoners on the island are educated individuals, while the others are the Krumovgrad and Kurdzhal Turks who were deported to the north in a mysterious manner last year.(6)

#### SOURCES

1. Yeni Istanbul, 13 Aug 51
2. Hurriyet, 27 Jul 51
3. Vatan, 2 Aug 51
4. Yeni Istanbul, 2 Aug 51
5. Yeni Sabah, 20 Aug 51
6. Cumhuriyet, 5 Oct 51

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